

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 5, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, 22 and 28 as follows.

Please **CANCEL** claims 7, 16, 24, 26 and 27 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims are provided below.

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a loading bed moveable between a loading position and a second position;
 - a plate-like member moveable with respect to the loading bed between a plate-like member loading position and a second plate-like member position, the plate-like member having a hinged portion; and
 - a sealing member positioned at an end of the hinged portion, the sealing member sealing a wrap about a sequenced group of product to form a package when the plate-like member is positioned over the loading bed and the hinged portion is positioned near an end of the loading bed,
 - wherein the plate-like member moves the wrap over the product when the plate-like member moves to the second plate-like member position.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the loading position of the loading bed is a raised position descending to a lowered position as the product is placed on the loading bed.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the lowered position of the loading bed is a height which allows the plate-like member to laterally move over the product when the product is placed on the loading bed.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the loading position of the loading bed is a position aligned with a drop-off point of the product and the second position of the loading bed is a remote position for dropping the package therefrom.
5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a clamping mechanism which holds a portion of the wrap during movement of the plate-like structure towards the loading bed;
 - a serrate mechanism to serrate the wrap when the sealing member seals the wrap to form the package; and
 - a cutting mechanism to cut the wrap when the package drops from the loading bed.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hinged portion is moveable between a first hinged position and a second hinged position, in the second hinged position, the hinged portion rests on an upper surface of the loading bed when the plate-like member is positioned over the loading bed.
7. (cancel)
8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein the second plate-like member position of the ~~plate-like member~~ is a raised position over product stacked on the loading bed.
9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a clamping and serrate mechanism which clamps a portion of the wrap while the plate-like

member moves other portions of the wrap over the product when moving toward the second plate-like member position, the clamping and serrate mechanism further serrates the wrap after the sealing member seals the wrap about the product.

10. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a loading bed moveable between a loading position and a second position;

a plate-like member moveable with respect to the loading bed between a plate-like member loading position and a second plate-like member position, the plate-like member having a hinged portion;

a sealing member positioned at an end of the hinged portion, the sealing member sealing a wrap about a sequenced group of product to form a package when the plate-like member is positioned over the loading bed and the hinged portion is positioned near an end of the loading bed; and

a wrap supply which supplies wrap when the plate-like member moves to the second plate-like member position.

11. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1,~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a loading bed moveable between a loading position and a second position;

a plate-like member moveable with respect to the loading bed between a plate-like member loading position and a second plate-like member position, the plate-like member having a hinged portion; and

a sealing member positioned at an end of the hinged portion, the sealing member sealing a wrap about a sequenced group of product to form a package when the plate-like member is positioned over the loading bed and the hinged

portion is positioned near an end of the loading bed,

wherein the sequenced product is types of mail objects.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for packaging product, comprising:

a loading bed moveable between a first position and a second position;

a bag former mechanism moveable with respect to the loading bed
between a first bag former mechanism position and a second bag former
mechanism position;

a hinged portion positioned at an end of the bag former mechanism;

a sealing member positioned at an end of the hinged portion, the sealing
member sealing a wrap about product to form a package when the bag former
mechanism is positioned over the loading bed and the hinged portion is positioned
near an end of the loading bed; and

a clamping and serrate mechanism positioned proximate to the sealing
member, wherein

the clamping and serrate mechanism clamps the wrap during the
movement of the bag former mechanism toward the second bag former
mechanism position,

the clamping and serrate mechanism serrates the wrap after the
sealing member seals the wrap to form the package,

the bag former mechanism moves the wrap over the product on the
loading bed when the bag former mechanism moves to the second bag former
mechanism position.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first position of the loading
bed is a raised loading position descending to a lowered position during
placement of the product on the loading bed, the lowered position being at a

position which allows the bag former mechanism to move laterally into the second position over the product and the loading bed.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the hinged portion is moveable between a first hinged portion position and a second hinged portion position, in the second hinged portion position, the hinged portion rests on an upper surface of the loading bed when the bag former mechanism is positioned over the loading bed and the product.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the sealing member seals portions of the wrap when the hinged portion is in the second hinged portion position.

16. (cancel)

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bag former mechanism is moveable between a raised position and a lowered position, in the raised position, the bag former mechanism is movable over product stacked on the loading bed.

18. – 21. (previously canceled)

22. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

 a sequencing device sequencing mail objects, the sequencing device including an input and an output;

 a packaging mechanism positioned proximate to the output of the sequencing device, the packaging mechanism packaging sequenced mail objects

for delivery routes provided by the sequencing device, the packaging mechanism including:

a loading bed moveable between two positions;

a bag former mechanism moveable with respect to the loading bed ~~between two positions~~ a first position substantially over the loading bed and a second position offset from the loading bed;

a hinged portion positioned at an end of the bag former mechanism; and

a member positioned ~~proximate to~~ at a distal end of the hinged portion, the member sealing a wrap about a group of sequenced mail objects to form a package when the hinged portion is positioned near an end of the loading bed,

wherein the positions of the loading bed and the bag former mechanism is a retractable position and a loading position with respect to one another.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further including a clamping and serrate mechanism, the clamping and serrate mechanism clamps the wrap during the movement of the bag former mechanism toward a loading position of the two positions and serrates the wrap after the sealing member seals the wrap to form the package.

24. (cancel)

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the hinged portion is moveable between a first position and a second position, in the second position, the hinged portion rests on an upper surface of the loading bed when the bag former mechanism is positioned over the loading bed.

26.-27. (cancel)

28. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 26,~~ An apparatus, comprising:
a loading bed moveable between a loading position of the loading bed and
a second loading bed position;

a plate-like member moveable with respect to the loading bed between a
loading position of the plate-like member and a second position of the plate-like
member, the plate-like member having a hinged portion; and

a sealing member positioned at an end of the hinged portion, the sealing
member sealing a wrap about a sequenced group of product to form a package
when the plate-like member is positioned over the loading bed and the hinged
portion is positioned near an end of the loading bed, wherein

the product is placed on a portion of the wrap when the loading
bed is positioned in its loading position;

the wrap is positioned over the loading bed, initially without
product, when the loading bed is in its loading position and the plate-like member
is in its second position, and

the plate-like member pulls a portion of the wrap over the product
when moved to its second position.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a wrap supply which supplies the wrap on the loading bed when in its loading position and over the product when the plate-like member is moved to its second position.